

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUBAN 00604 191028Z

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TAGS: PINT PINS ELAB SF

SUBJECT: FOURTEEN LEADERS OF BLACK UNIONS BANNED

1. SUMMARY: FOURTEEN PERSONS ACTIVE IN ORGANIZING THE BLACK TRADE UNION MOVEMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA HAVE BEEN SERVED WITH FIVE-YEAR BANNING ORDERS IN THE PAST FOUR DAYS. THE BANNINGS SEVERELY DAMAGE THE LEADERSHIP ELEMENT OF WHAT WAS AN ALREADY WEAK BLACK LABOR MOVEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. FOURTEEN TRADE UNION LEADERS IN SOUTH AFRICA HAVE RECEIVED FIVE-YEAR BANNING ORDERS WITHIN PAST FOUR DAYS, ACCORDING TO S.A. PRESS. EIGHT OF THESE (SIX WHITES AND TWO BLACKS) WERE BANNED IN DURBAN ON NOV18. THEIR BANNING, COUPLED WITH THAT OF SIX PRESENT AND FORMER LEADERS (FIVE WHITE, ONE BLACK) IN JOHANNESBURG EARLIER IN WEEK, EFFECTIVELY ELIMINATES A LARGE PART OF EXISTING NATIONAL BLACK UNION LEADERSHIP FROM PARTICIPATION IN UNION ACTIVITIES.

3. BANNED NATAL UNION ORGANIZERS ARE JOHNNY COPELYN, SECRETARY OF 50,000 MEMBER TRADE UNION ADVISORY AND COORDINATING COUNCIL AND OF TEXTILE WORKERS INDUSTRIAL UNION; CHRIS ALBERTYN, ORGANIZER FOR TEXTILE WORKERS; MICHAEL MURPHY, SECRETARY OF TRANSPORT AND GENERAL WORKERS UNION AND HIS WIFE JEANETTE, A FORMER UNION ACTIVIST; PATRICIA HORN, EDUCATION OFFICER FOR

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PAGE 02 DUBAN 00604 191028Z

INSTITUTE FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (IIE); AND ALPHEUS MTHETWA

AND MFUNDISE NDLOVO, RESPECTIVELY SECRETARY AND ORGANIZER OF METAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION. ALL ARE BANNED UNDER SECTIONS 9 AND 10 OF INTERNAL SECURITY ACT.

4. BANNED IN JOHANNESBURG WERE GAVIN ANDERSON, ORGANIZER, AND SIPHO KUBHEKA, SECRETARY OF JOHANNESBURG BRANCH OF METAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION; ERIC TYACKE, DIRECTOR OF DURBAN TRAINING PROJECT (UTP) AND HIS WIFE JEAN, AND LOET DOUWES DEKKER, UTP CHAIRMAN. IN ADDITION, JEANETTE CURTIS, AN ARCHIVIST AT THE S.A. INSTITUTE FOR RACE RELATIONS WHO WAS FORMERLY ACTIVE IN TRADE UNION MOVEMENT, ALSO RECEIVED BANNING ORDER.

5. TERMS OF BANNING ORDERS PROHIBIT THOSE BANNED IN NATAL FROM LEAVING DURBAN MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT, ENTERING UNION OFFICES OR TOWNSHIPS, ATTENDING PUBLIC SOCIAL OR POLITICAL MEETINGS, CONTACTING OTHER BANNED PERSONS, OR VISITING ANY NEWSPAPER, PUBLISHING OFFICE, COURT OR HARBOR. PRESUME JOHANNESBURG BANNING ORDERS ARE SIMILAR.

6. COMMENT: CONSENSUS OF PUBLIC REACTION IN NATAL SO FAR IS THAT SAG WISHED TO REMOVE AN ALREADY WEAK LEADERSHIP ELEMENT FROM THE BLACK UNION MOVEMENT BEFORE IT COULD BEGIN TO EXPLOIT RISING TIDE OF BLACK UNEMPLOYMENT. BLACK LABOR MOVEMENT IN NATAL HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY HAMPERED IN RECENT YEARS BY DEPARTURE OF FORMER LEADERS AND SECURITY POLICE HARRASSMENT AND DETENTION OF OTHERS. LATEST ACTION CUTS BLACK UNION DEVELOPMENT POSSIBILITIES BACK STILL FURTHER IN NATAL. ASSUME JOHANNESBURG WILL COMMENT ON SIGNIFICANCE FOR BLACK UNION MOVEMENT ON REEF.
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